

sort of oppression for the rich in all places
to domineer
too insolently over the poor, and force them
to follow
their wills and to serve their interest, be it
right or
wrong. . . . Especially unmerciful landlords
are the
common and sore oppressors of the
countrymen. If a
few men can but get money enough to
purchase all
the land in a county, they think that they
may do
with their own as they list, and set such
hard bargains
of it to their tenants, that they are all but
as their
servants. . . . An oppressor is an Anti-Christ
and an
Anti-God . . . not only the agent of the
Devil, but
his image." As in his discussion of prices, the
gist of
Baxter's analysis of the cases of conscience
which arise
in the relations of landlord and tenant is
that no man
may secure pecuniary gain for himself by
injuring his
neighbour. Except in unusual circumstances,
a landlord
must not let his land at the full competitive
rent which
it would fetch in the market: " Ordinarily the
common
sort of tenants in England should have so
much abated
of the fullest worth that they may
comfortably live on
it, and follow their labours with
cheerfulness of min3
and liberty to serve God in their families,
and to mind
the matters of their salvation, and not to
be necessi-
tated to such toil and care and pinching
want, as shall
make them liker slaves than free men.*' He
must not
improve (i.e. enclose) his land without

considering the
 effect on the tenants, or evict his tenants
 without com-
 pensating them, and in such a way as to
 cause depopu-
 lation ; nor must a newcomer take a holding
 over tfre
 sitting tenant's head by offering " a greater
 rent than he
 can give or than the landlord hath just
 cause to require
 of him*¹¹ The Christian, in short, while
 eschewing
 " causeless, perplexing, melancholy
 scruples, which
 would stop a man in the course of his
 duty," must
 so manage his business as to *' avoid
 sinj^ther than
 loss/¹ and seek first to keep his conscience in
 peace.

The first characteristic to strike the
 modern reader in
 all this teaching is its conservatism.
 In spite of the